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Mechanical properties of a Ti6Al4V porous structure produced by selective laser melting

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ABSTRACT

This paper designs one octahedral Ti6Al4V porous structure and then establishes a simplified model. The Ti6Al4V porous structure is manufactured by selective laser melting. Its experimental and theoretical fracture loads are obtained through theoretical calculation and compression test respectively. The result demonstrates that there is an exponential relationship between the experimental fracture load and the porosity of the porous structure. With an average relative error of 5.86%, the deviation between experimental and theoretical fracture load is small, which indicates that the predication accuracy is comparatively high. So the fracture load calculation theory is valuable in practical applications. Finally, the fracture analysis indicates that fractures of units and porous structures are brittle fractures, which belong to cleavage fracture.

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1. Introduction

A porous material is a type of material that integrates structure and function. Compared with traditional materials, porous materials boast the advantages of low density, high specific strength, specific surface, light weight, sound insulation, heat insulation, and good permeability [1]. These materials are, therefore, widely applied in aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering, and optoelectronics. There are many factors affecting the properties of porous materials, among which structural design plays an essential role. Along with the development of science and technology, the size of porous materials has been decreasing while their porosity has been increasing, thus contributing to the wider use of porous materials [2].

The Ti6Al4V alloy is a two-phase type of titanium alloy that has corrosion resistance and high specific strength. Consequently, Ti6Al4V has come to be known as "space metal" [3] or "ocean metal" [4] and has been broadly used in national defense and in civil industries.

Selective laser melting (SLM) is a parts-manufacturing technique that has been growing since the 1990s. SLM can transform metal parts into arbitrary shapes without traditional cutting by melting metal powder with a laser to achieve metallurgical bonding of the powder [5]. This technique can also increase the density of the parts to more than 95%. With high density [6], good mechanical properties [7], high dimensional accuracy (dimensional error

less than 0.1 mm), and direct use with or without simple post-processing, parts manufactured by SLM outperform those manufactured by traditional techniques in terms of design and manufacturing time [8]. That is why SLM has been widely used in industries including aerospace, medicine, automobile, mold making and so on [9].

Yadroitsev et al. [10], manufactured porous materials with a pore size of 150 μ m and a wall thickness of 120 μ m by using a fiber laser. Lewis Mullen et al. [11], studied the effects and characteristics of the unit pore have on the growth of porous osteocytes. TIXOS [12], a company in Italy, developed a composite structure with solid and porous structures. Companies in Germany, like EOS and MCP, did in-depth research on the theoretical and practical aspects of porous materials.

However, the aforementioned researches focused on the porosity and determination of the pore size of metal parts, paying less attention to their load after processing. In this research, the maximum load of simplified model of porous structure (produced by SLM) was obtained via calculation under the strength theory. A comparison between the experimental and theoretical fracture load revealed that the predictive accuracy of the simplified model is relatively high. And reasons for the deviation between the theoretical and actual values were analyzed.

2. Experiment details

2.1. Experimental equipment

DiMetal-280 SLM rapid prototyping equipment from the South China University of Technology was utilized in this research. The

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| Nome | nclature | | |
|------------|---|-------------------|--|
| d_0 | theoretical sectional dimension | а | length of AB |
| S | cross-sectional area | b | length of BC |
| S_Z^* | static moment of cross-section to neutral axis | V_{DEFH} | volume of right-angle tetrahedron DEFH |
| y_1 | absolute value of distance from a point on interface to neutral axis | $V_{\rm LMNP-FI}$ | rst volume of cuboid LMNP-FRST |
| Μ | moment | $V_{ m unit}$ | volume of octahedral unit |
| $[\sigma]$ | permissible stress | $V_{\rm UVYZ}$ | volume of octahedral UVYZ |
| h | section width | V_T | the volume of <i>T</i> |
| I_Z | moment of inertia of entire cross-section to neutral axis | V_{totalT} | sum of volumes of T |
| y | absolute value of distance from a random point outside of cross section to neutral axis | N ŋ | units number porosity |
| θ_1 | angle between AB and AC | . r | constant |
| θ_2 | angle between BC and AC | d_1 | experimental sectional dimension |

main structure of DiMetal-280 is shown in Fig. 1, and its technical specifications are shown in Table 1. A Model GP-TS2000M/100kN high-temperature electronic universal tester (Changchun Intelligent Instrument Co., Ltd., Changchun, China) was employed in the compression test, and its technical specifications are also shown in Table 1.

2.2. Materials and methods

2.2.1. Materials

The Ti6Al4V gas-atomized spherical powder was used in this study. Please see Table 2 (wt.%) for its chemical composition.

2.2.2. Preparation methods

A $100~\text{mm} \times 100~\text{mm} \times 20~\text{mm}$ volume of Ti6Al4V substrate was utilized in this study. Argon served as the protective gas to ensure oxygen content remained under 0.2%. The optimized parameters are listed in Table 3. The density of samples could reach 95.03%.

2.2.3. Detection methods

The cross-sections of samples were polished by 200 lb, 400 lb, and 800 lb abrasive papers successively. The samples were ultrasonically cleaned in an acetone solution for 20 min. Then they were etched with HNO₃ + HF solution for subsequent microstructure analysis. In the compression test, we used a test speed of 1 mm/min (ASTM:E9-09) to obtain the fracture load of these samples.

3. Results and discussion

The statically indeterminate spatial structure was not taken into account in either the theoretical or experimental calculations.

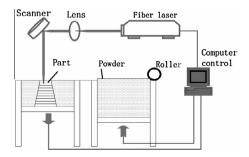


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of SLM.

3.1. Calculation of theoretical maximum load

In order to easy to understand, nomenclatures are listed for all abbreviations before the introduction

3.1.1. Theoretical load of strut

Fig. 2 shows the designed three-dimensional structure. Fig. 2a is the assembly drawing, while Fig. 2b shows the spatial structure of the porous unit clearly. Meanwhile, the angle, the diameter of the cross-section and the length of the strut are all listed in Table 4. The dimensions of these four porous structures follow the standard ASTM:E9-09. Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of force (AC is an imaginary line). Given that force F loads on point A, let all struts be uniformly forced, and then take strut AB for calculation. After resolving force F into F_{AB} along strut AB and F'_{AB} vertical to strut AB, the following is clear from Fig. 3:

$$F_{AB} = F\cos(\theta_1), \quad F'_{AB} = F\sin(\theta_1). \tag{1}$$

When the compressive stress and bending stress meet:

$$[\sigma] \geqslant \frac{F\cos(\theta_1)}{S}, \quad [\tau] \geqslant \frac{F\sin(\theta_1)S_Z^*}{I_Z b}.$$
 (2)

From Eqs. (1) and (2), the maximum load on point B is:

$$\begin{split} [\sigma(\theta)]_{AB} &\geqslant \frac{F\cos(\theta_1)}{S} + \frac{Fa\sin(\theta_1)S_Z^*}{I_Zh} \\ &= \frac{F\cos(\theta_1)}{S} + \frac{Fa\sin(\theta_1)\int_A y_1 dy}{h\int_A y^2 dy}, \end{split} \tag{3}$$

Fig. 3b shows the forces on strut *BC*, where $M = Fa \sin(\theta_1)$. The bending moment generated by F_{BC} is in the opposite direction of M. Thus the maximum load at point C is

$$[\sigma(\theta)]_{BC} \geqslant \frac{F\cos(\theta_2)}{S} + \frac{Fb\sin(\theta_2)\int_A y_1 dy}{h\int_A y^2 dy} - \frac{Fa\sin(\theta_1)\int_A y_1 dy}{h\int_A y^2 dy}. \tag{4}$$

Let the cross-section of the strut be circular, the stress on it uniform, and its composition homogeneous so as to simplify the calculation. Then, the neutral axis and the moment of inertia overlap in this scenario. The maximum stress is generated at point *C* of the cross section on the horizontal line that goes through the center. Thus:

$$\frac{\int_{A} y_{1} dy}{h \int_{A} y^{2} dy} = \frac{1}{\frac{\pi d_{0}^{3}}{22}}.$$
 (5)

Then Eq. (4) transforms to

Table 1 Technical specifications.

| Laser wavelength (nm) | Power (W) | Maximum dimension (mm ³) | Scanning speed (mm/s) | Laser diameter (µm) | Powder thickness (μm) |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| DiMetal-280 1075 Capacity (optional) (kN) | 200 W cw Unit | $280 \times 280 \times 300$ Load resolution | 5–5000 Test speed (mm/min) | 70 Test space (mm²) | 20–80 Power (W) |
| GP-TS2000M/100kN 100 | kg, N, kN | 1/100,000 | 0.005-1000 | 560 × 800 | 380 V AC |

Table 2 Powder chemical composition of Ti-6Al-4V.

| Composition (wt.%) | Al | V | 0 | Н | N | С | Fe | Si | Ti |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | 5.5-6.8 | 3.5-4.5 | 0.15 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.025 | 0.02 | Bal. |

Table 3 Optimized parameters.

| Power (W) | Scanning speed (mm/s) | Powder thickness (mm) | Scanning strategy | Hatch spacing (mm) |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 80 | 200 | 0.02 | X-Y inter-layer stagger scanning | 0.06 |

$$[\sigma_{\theta}]_{BC} \geqslant \frac{F\cos(\theta_1)}{\frac{\pi d_0^2}{4}} + \frac{Fb\sin(\theta_2)}{\frac{\pi d_0^3}{32}} - \frac{Fa\sin(\theta_1)}{\frac{\pi d_0^3}{32}}.$$
 (6)

Let $\frac{d[\sigma]}{d\theta}=0$ and $\frac{a}{\sin(\theta_2)}=\frac{b}{\sin(\theta_1)}$, then the first order derivative of Eq. (4) is expressed as:

$$\begin{split} \left\{ \sin^4(\theta_2) \times \left(\frac{b^2}{16} + \frac{d_0^4}{4096} \right) - \sin^2(\theta_2) \times \left(\frac{d_0^2 b^2 + a^2 d_0^2}{32} \right) + b^4 - 2a^2 b^2 \right\} \\ \times F_{BC} \\ &= 0. \end{split}$$

(7)

Substituting $F \neq 0$ into Eq. (7) and get:

$$\sin^{4}(\theta_{2}) \times \left(\frac{b^{2}}{16} + \frac{d_{0}^{4}}{4096}\right) - \sin^{2}(\theta_{2}) \times \left(\frac{d_{0}^{2}b^{2} + a^{2}d_{0}^{2}}{32}\right) + b^{4}$$

$$-2a^{2}b^{2}$$

$$= 0.$$
(8)

By solving Eq. (8), it is obtained:

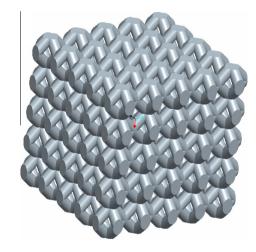


Fig. 2a. Design of octahedral: (a) assembly drawing of angle 45, d_0 = 0.75 mm, a = 2 mm.

$$\theta_2 = \arcsin{\left(\frac{8d_0}{256b^2d_0^2 + d_0^4}\sqrt{(256b^2 + d_0^2) \times (32bd_0^2 + 32ba^2 \pm b \times)\sqrt{1023b^2d_0^4 + 2560b^2d_0^2a^2 + 1024b^2a^4 - 256b^4d_0^2 + 2d_0^4a^2}\right)}. \tag{9}$$

Let a = b and $\theta_1 = \theta_2$; Eq. (9) then simplifies to

$$\frac{d[\sigma]}{d\theta} = -\frac{d_0}{4}\sin(\theta_2)F. \tag{10}$$

When $0 < \theta_2 < \frac{\pi}{2}$ (the processing range), $\sin(\theta_2)$ is monotonically increasing; in contrast, when $(0 < \theta_2 < \frac{\pi}{2})$, Eq. (10) is monotonically decreasing. The critical point changes from point C to point B. Then, Eq. (3) transforms to

$$[\sigma_{\theta}]_{AB} \geqslant \frac{F\cos(\theta)}{\frac{\pi d_0^2}{4}} + \frac{Fa\sin(\theta)}{\frac{\pi d_0^3}{32}}.$$
 (11)

When $\frac{d[\sigma]}{d\theta} = 0$, the maximum load on point *B* is

$$\sin(\theta_1) = \frac{8a}{\sqrt{64a^2 + d_0^2}}. (12)$$

Substitute Eq. (12) in Eq. (11) to obtain the relationship among the maximum loads, a and b:

$$[\sigma] = \frac{32a^2 + 4d_0^2}{\pi d_0^3 \sqrt{64a^2 + d_0^2}} F. \tag{13}$$

Let $\frac{d[\sigma]}{da} = 0$ and d a constant, then it is obtained via Eq. (9):

$$a = \sqrt{\frac{3}{32}}d_0. {(14)}$$

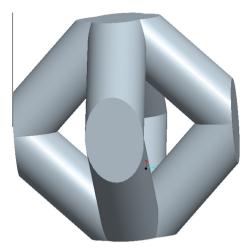


Fig. 2b. Design of octahedral: (b) unit of angle 45, $d_0 = 0.75$ mm, a = 2 mm.

Table 4 Design of octahedral date.

| Number | Angle (∘) | Cross section diameter of strut (mm) | Length of strut (mm) |
|--------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 45 | 0.75 | 2 |
| 2 | 45 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 30 | 0.75 | 2 |
| 4 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | |

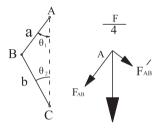


Fig. 3a. Schematic diagram of force: (a) force of AB.

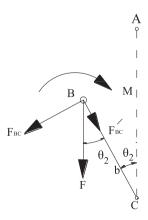


Fig. 3b. Schematic diagram of force: (b) force of BC.

$$\begin{cases} \theta_1 = 6^{\circ} \\ a = \sqrt{\frac{d_0}{32}} \\ F = \frac{[\sigma]\pi d_0^2}{\sqrt{7}} \end{cases}$$

3.1.2. Units porosity

3.1.2.1. *Cuboid volume.* Calculate the volume of the cuboid containing the octahedron first to set the basis for calculating the global porosity. It can be seen from Fig. 4 that

$$DE = DF = DG = DH = a, \angle FDO = \angle EDO = \angle HDO = \theta_1$$

 $DO = a \cos \theta_1$, $FO = HO = a \sin \theta_1$ from the known conditions.

Therefore,
$$V_{\text{LMNP-FRST}} = 8a^3 \sin^2 \theta_1 \cos \theta_1$$
. (15)

3.1.2.2. Octahedron volume. The volume of the octahedron is shown in Fig. 4. The octahedron designed for this paper can be presented as the sum of the volumes of four right-angle tetrahedrons DEFH. It is known from Fig. 4 that:

$$V_{\text{DEFH}} = \frac{1}{3}a^3\sin^2\theta_1\cos\theta_1. \tag{16}$$

From formula (16), we obtain

$$V_{\text{unit}} = 4V_{\text{DEFH}} = \frac{4}{3}a^3\sin^2\theta_1\cos\theta_1 \tag{17}$$

3.1.2.3. *Internal hollow volume.* See Fig. 5 for the joints of the struts. Given $\angle VUO = \angle BVW = \angle YCX = \theta_1, BC = a, VW = XY = d_0$,

then
$$WX = a - \frac{d_0}{2} \tan \theta_1 - \frac{d_0}{2 \tan \theta_1}$$
. (18)

From formula (18), we obtain the following:

$$V_{\rm UVYZ} = \frac{4}{3} \left(a - \frac{d_0}{2} \tan \theta_1 - \frac{d_0}{2 \tan \theta_1} \right)^3 \sin^2 \theta_1 \cos \theta_1. \tag{19}$$

The volume of the cuboid (see Fig. 4) containing the octahedron is calculated first to set the basis for calculation of global porosity. The volume of T (see Fig. 6) is repeatedly calculated and subtracted while calculating porosity.

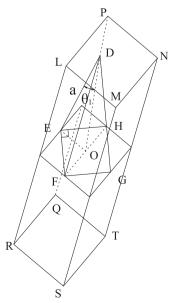


Fig. 4. Schematic diagram of the calculation of the porosity.

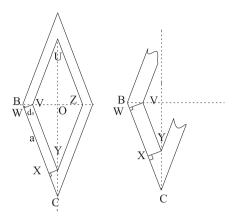


Fig. 5. Schematic diagram of the struts' joints.

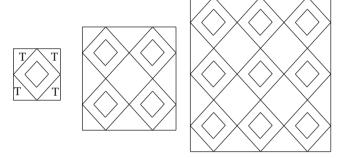


Fig. 6. Schematic diagram of the volume increase.

The volume of *T* is obtained from the geometric relationship in Fig. 6:

$$V_T = \frac{1}{4} \times \left(8a^3 \sin^2 \theta_1 \times \cos \theta_1 - \frac{4}{3}a^3 \sin^2 \theta_1 \cos \theta_1\right). \tag{20}$$

When N = 1, 2 volumes of T have been repeatedly calculated; N = 8, 12 volumes; N = 27, 30 volumes of T; and when N = 64, 72 volumes of T have been calculated repeatedly. By such reasoning, we obtain the relationship between total volume T and N as follows:

$$V_{totalT} = 4 \times (2\sqrt[3]{N} - 1) \times \sqrt[3]{N} \times V_T. \tag{21}$$

The porosity is derived from formulas (15), (18), (19), (20), and (21):

$$\begin{split} \eta &= \frac{NV_{\text{LMNP-FRST}} - NV_{\text{unit}} + NV_{\text{UVYZ}} - V_{\text{total }T}}{NV_{\text{LMNP-FRST}} - V_{\text{total }T}} \\ &= \frac{5(\sqrt[3]{N} - 1)^2 a^3 - \sqrt[3]{N^2} \left(a - \frac{d_0}{\sin 2\theta_1}\right)^3}{(6\sqrt[3]{N^2} - 10\sqrt[3]{N} + 5)a^3}. \end{split} \tag{22}$$

It is known from the Ryskewith model that the stress on the porous material satisfies the following:

$$[\sigma]_{porosity} = e^{-c\eta} [\sigma]_{density}. \tag{23}$$

From [13], we obtain c = 0.7. Formula (11) calculates the load of the dense body's struts. The structure manufactured in this paper was a porous material composed of struts; thus. $[\sigma]_{porosity}$ should be chosen for calculating the global maximum load.

Substituting the porosities of manufactured samples 1, 2, 3, and 4 into formulas (11) and (23), we obtain the following:

$$F_{theoretical} = \frac{N\pi k [\sigma]_{density} d_0^3}{d_0 \cos \theta + 8a \sin \theta} = \frac{N\pi e^{-c\eta} [\sigma]_{density} d_0^3}{d_0 \cos \theta + 8a \sin \theta}$$

$$= \frac{5(\sqrt[3]{N} - 1)^2 a^3 - \sqrt[3]{N^2} \left(a - \frac{d_0}{\sin 2\theta_1}\right)^3}{(6\sqrt[3]{N^2} - 10\sqrt[3]{N} + 5)a^3}$$

$$= \frac{N[\sigma]_{density} d_0^3 \pi e^{-0.7x} - \frac{(6\sqrt[3]{N} - 1)^2 a^3 - \sqrt[3]{N^2} \left(a - \frac{d_0}{\sin 2\theta_1}\right)^3}{(6\sqrt[3]{N^2} - 10\sqrt[3]{N} + 5)a^3}$$
(24)

where $[\sigma]_{density}$ = 895 MPa [14]. Assume that the pore in the solid parts of the sample only has influence on the sectional dimension on the condition that the density of the entity parts of the sample is only 95%. Then:

$$\frac{\pi d_0^2}{4} = \frac{0.95\pi d_1^2}{4}.\tag{25}$$

Through formula (25), we obtain $d_1 = 0.97d_0$.

3.2. Experimental load

The four structures, differing in strut angle and section diameter, were processed on the same substrate, and their processing parameters are listed in Table 4. Fig. 7 shows the morphology of the four structures after processing. With strut angles of 45°, samples 1 and 2 are cubes; however, with strut angles of 60°, samples 3 and 4 are cuboids. We conducted a compression test on samples 1, 2, 3, and 4, and then we compared the experimental load and the theoretical load on these samples to analyze the deviations among them.

Fig. 8 shows the stress–strain curves of samples 1, 2, 3, and 4 as well as the maximum load of the experiment in Table 5. We substituted the data from Table 4 into formula (26) to obtain the theoretical load (see Table 5).

Table 5 clearly demonstrates that the errors between the theoretical values and experimental values are tiny. In conclusion, the calculation accuracy of the simplified model is relatively high.

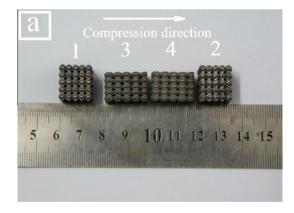


Fig. 7a. Morphology of octahedral by SLM (a) front view

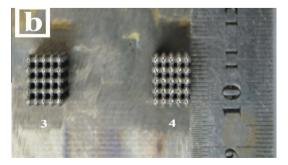


Fig. 7b. Morphology of octahedral by SLM (b) side view.

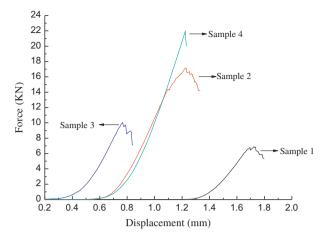


Fig. 8. Stress-strain curve of sample 1, sample 2, sample 3 and sample 4.

3.3. Microstructure analysis

As is generally known, microstructure determines property of the material. The microstructure of the grain boundary is shown in Fig. 9. The XRD pattern in Fig. 10 shows that the three phases, α' , β and Ti₃Al, were produced. Sun [15] and Poondla [16] heated the samples to the transformation temperature and cooled them with different rate, and finally observed their microstructures. The microstructures obtained under high cooling rate are same as the microstructure in this paper. The grain size in this paper is smaller than their grain size, since the cooling rate of SLM is faster than theirs. The solid solution atoms V in phase β of Ti6Al4V did not have enough time to diffuse out of unit cells and thus transform into phase α . However, the martensite transformation is a type of diffusionless transformation. There were no atoms randomly passing or sequentially leaping through the interface and thus the new phase (martensite) shall inherit the chemical composition, atomic order and crystal defects of its parent phase [17]. With a transformation speed close to the sound velocity [18], the BCC phase β in Ti6Al4V directly turned into HCP phase α' .

3.4. Microhardness test

The microhardness at a measured depth of the sample was tested by the microhardness tester. The microhardness of at least three points at the same depth were measured and averaged. The microhardness conformed to the Vicker hardness. As shown in Fig. 11, the average microhardness of the formed sample is 482.9068 Hv_{0.2}, which is higher than the microhardness of 440 Hv_{0.3} researched by Amaya-Vazquez et al. [19]. There are two reasons for this situation. The first reason for this is the composition: there were many alloying elements in the Ti6Al4V powder, including Al, V, O, H, N, and C. After being heated with a laser, these elements diffused rapidly in the molten pool and generated tiny alloy compounds represented as Ti₃Al, These compounds formed hard spots dispersed in the microstructure that greatly improved the microhardness of the formed sample. [19] shows that the XRD peak intensity of Ti3Al is less than in this paper, so there are less

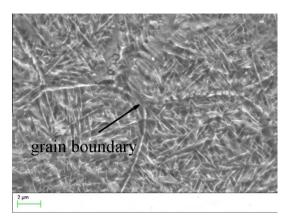


Fig. 9. Morphology of grain boundary.

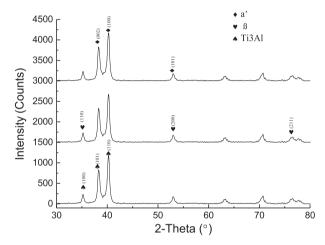


Fig. 10. X-ray diffraction pattern of sample.

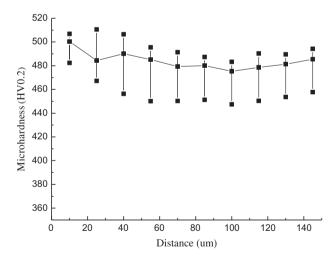


Fig. 11. Microhardness of sample.

Table 5 Experimental load of samples 1–4.

| Number | Theoretical diameter (mm) | Experimental diameter (mm) | Experimental load (N) | Theoretical load (N) | Relatively error (%) | Average relatively error |
|--------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 0.75 | 0.73 | 6886.7 | 6496.6 | 5.66 | 5.85% |
| 2 | 1 | 0.97 | 16429.7 | 15183.8 | 7.58 | |
| 3 | 0.75 | 0.73 | 9708.2 | 9161.3 | 5.62 | |
| 4 | 1 | 0.97 | 21990.7 | 20988.1 | 4.56 | |

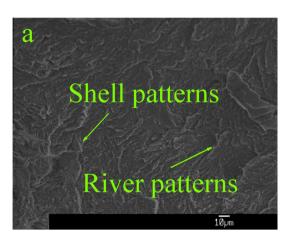


Fig. 12a. Morphology of fracture: (a) river and shell patterns.

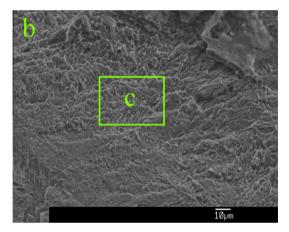


Fig. 12b. Morphology of fracture: (b) overall morphology of dimple.

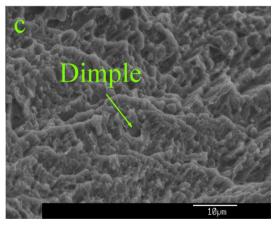


Fig. 12c. Morphology of fracture: (c) dimple.

Ti3Al in it. The second reason is the microstructure: the martensites in Ti6Al4V belonged to hard phase, which also improved the overall microhardness. In [19] the microstructure contains less martensites and many large grains, so its hardness is lower.

3.5. Fracture morphology analysis

The morphology of the fracture, shown in Fig. 12, is smooth and uniform. The river and shell patterns appear in Fig. 12a are charac-

teristics of cleavage fracture. Macroscopically, like in the laser welding, Ti6Al4V experienced brittle fracturing [20], but microscopic dimples and tearing ridges could also be found, which is same as the fracture morphology in [21]. The dimples in Figs. 12b and c, with their irregular shape and relatively small number, are distributed inhomogeneously. Therefore, the fracture mode of the Ti6Al4V alloy is a mixed one based on brittle fracturing. [20,21] paid attention to obtain the process parameters for maximum tensile strength, but there is less analysis of the fracture mechanism.

The generation of fracture is caused by microstructural transformation. The extremely rapid cooling caused Ti6Al4V to generate a large amount of supersaturated solid solution of Al. When the concentration of Al increased to a level higher than the concentration of the supersaturated solid solution, the aluminide Ti₂Al (as shown in Fig. 10) would precipitate in the grain boundary. Ti₂Al is a typical brittle microstructure that is inclined to generate and propagate cracks rapidly, which in turn explains the obvious traces of brittle fractures in the fracture morphology. Analysis of the fracture morphology implies that the fracturing process occurred when the material generated cracks and a large number of dislocations gathered on the grain boundaries under external stress. The continuous increase in external stress caused the dislocations to proliferate extensively. Grain boundary energy thus increased while stability was poor, thus leading to gradual concentration of stress. As the experiment progressed, cracks extended along the martensite phase grain section until the last failure.

4. Conclusions

The theoretical load of the octahedral Ti6Al4V porous structure was obtained by calculating the load of the simplified model of this structure. The results in this study demonstrate that the experimental fracture load of the Ti6Al4V porous structure, which is obtained through a compression test, agrees well with the theoretical maximum load.

Following conclusions can be derived:

- (1) The theoretical maximum load of the porous structure is $F_{theoretical} = \frac{N\pi e^{\sqrt{\eta}} [\sigma]_{density} d_0^2}{d_0 \cos \theta + 8a \sin \theta}$, where N is the number of porous structure units.
- (2) Microstructure analysis implies that the microstructure of the porous structure contains a large amount of martensites that intermesh with each other and raise the energy required for crack propagation. Therefore, the experimental fracture load is larger than the theoretical maximum load.
- (3) Fracture morphology analysis indicates that the porous structure experiences brittle fracturing a type of cleavage fracture. The microhardness measurement indicates that the average microhardness of the porous structure is 482.9068 Hv_{0.2}.

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